

“Annulet” which favours limestone areas. *Lythria purpuraria* Linn. just scrapes on to the British list (two specimens in Perth in 1861) and is illustrated in South (1961). A fourth Chocolate-tip, *Clostera anastomosis* Linn. was not uncommon whilst a “marbled brown” *Drymonia querna* Fabr. was represented by only two specimens. L'Homme (1923) suggests that the latter is more common in the south of France.

Two processionary moths turned up, the Pine (*Thaumetopoea pityocampa* Schiff.) and the Oak (*T. processionea* Linn.). I found these difficult to separate using the plates in my copy of Sietz (1913). A “pale and interesting” species is the Lymantriid *Ocneria rubea* Schiff. The Arctiid *Paidia murina* Hb. resembles a very large version of the Round-winged Muslin moth (*Thumatha senex* Hb.). Noctuidae were represented by the beautiful green *Polyphaenis sericata* Esp. and the striking *Ephesia fulminea* Scop. The latter is a Catocalid with yellow and black hindwings. The larvae favour Blackthorn and L'Homme (1923) suggests that they prefer the oldest trees. The Pale Shoulder (*Tarache lucida* Hufn.) is another species which just scrapes on to the British list and is illustrated in South (1961).

I failed miserably to rear larvae of the Black V moth. Ova were easily obtained from females in the trap, but many first instar larvae refused to feed when offered a range of leaves. Those that did feed died during the next instar. They showed no sign of “spinning up” for the winter. Any suggestions as to an explanation for this failure would be gratefully received!

Every good trip should leave some lasting memories. Two remain vivid from La Folatiere. The first is sitting by the trap in a snow storm of moths listening to the Lerots (Garden Dormouse, *Elomys quercinus* Linn.) playing a noisy version of tag in the nearby trees. The second is emptying the trap early in the morning whilst a few feet away Large Blues (*Maculinea arion* Linn.) were opening their wings to receive the first warmth from the sun. How I pity those that cannot enjoy such recollections!

We returned to Somerset on 7th August – it was still a disappointing season. I added only a dozen new species to the garden list in 1994. I am beginning to suspect that being surrounded by arable farmland is not conducive to building up a long list of garden moths. The sprays so liberally applied are not specific to one pest species, nor are they only applied on calm days. A visit to south Devon in October produced no migrants. Indeed, the only migrant I recorded was a male Vestal (*Rhodometra sacraria* Linn.) in the garden trap on 30th August. Let us hope that 1995 proves a more memorable season. Needless to say, my trips to France are already booked!

References: L'Homme, L., 1923-1935. *Catalogue des Lepidopteres de France et Belgique*; Seitz, A., 1913. *Macrolepidoptera of the Palaearctic Fauna*; South, R., 1961. *The Moths of the British Isles*.

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***Synchita humeralis* (F.) (Colydiidae): a second record for West Kent**

This beetle is now by far the rarer of our two species of *Synchita* in the south-east, owing to the recent spread of *S. separanda* Reitt. to new habitat,

and any find of the true *S. humeralis* in Kent (see below) is decidedly notable. I was therefore surprised to detect an example of that species among some insects sent by my correspondent K.C. Lewis from the woods near Bexley. On learning of its interest, Mr Lewis most kindly insisted that I retain the specimen. It was taken by sweeping tall grass at the edge of a field bordering Chalk Wood, 24.v.1994. To find a *Synchita* at large is of course very exceptional, and one must suppose that the insect had been induced, probably by sultry weather, to emerge from its normal habitat under bark and take flight.

The previous certain Kent record is of a specimen bred by our Editor, Paul Sokoloff, from the fungus *Daldinia concentrica* on dead and dying birch at Keston, March 1984. There are in the literature two much older records for the county; but as I have shown (Allen, 1964: 41), the first – Tunbridge Wells 1882 – may really have referred to *S. separanda*, while the second has proved erroneous.

References: Allen, A.A., 1964. The genus *Synchita* Hellw. (Col.: Colydiidae) in Britain; with an addition to the fauna and a new synonymy. *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* **100**: 36-42; Sokoloff, P.A., 1985. [Exhibit at Br. Ent. Nat. Hist. Soc. Annual Exhibition, 27th October 1984] *Proc. Trans. Br. ent. nat. Hist. Soc.*, **18**: 6.

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Foodplants of *Coleophora lusciniapennella* (Treitschke) (Lep.: Coleophoridae) in Lancashire (VC 60)

Whilst searching for moth larvae on the Lytham St Annes sand-dune nature reserve in Lancashire on 25th May 1994 I was amazed at the proliferation of *Coleophora lusciniapennella* (= *viminetella* Zell.) larvae in their cases on *Salix repens*. On the reserve, a single seedling of *Betula pendula* (about four feet high) showed signs of *Coleophora* feeding on the leaves.

After a short search two cases resembling those of *Coleophora lusciniapennella* were found actively feeding on the Birch. These were reared and subsequently produced two *Coleophora lusciniapennella*. A *Field Guide to the Smaller British Lepidoptera* (Emmet. A.M., 1988) makes reference to *lusciniapennella* feeding on *Betula*, in Scotland but this appears not to have been noted in England before. Whether the eggs had been laid on the Birch or the larvae had just moved onto it from the *Salix* is not known, but there was no shortage of *Salix repens* in the immediate vicinity of the Birch seedlings. – S.M. PALMER, 137 Lightfoot Lane, Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire PR4 0AH.

***Bankesia douglasii* Stainton (Lep.: Psychidae) in Hampshire**

N.F. Neal reports *Bankesia douglasii* Staint. new to Kent (*Ent. Rec.* **106**: 98). This species was discovered by A.H. Stainton near Warsash, on the eastern shore of Southampton Water in 1867. It was last seen near the end of the century (B. Goater, *the Butterflies and Moths of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*, 1974).